1 - Mr. Mintz
Attn: Mr. Heller
1 - Mr. Bassett
1 - Mr. Bailey
1 - Mr. Foster

June 23, 1978

OUTSIDE SOURCE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/2/83 BY
#211,326

Mr. Warren C. de Brueys
4827 Michoud Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70129

Dear Warren:

Director Webster has asked me to respond to your letter of June 12, 1978, with enclosure. It was thoughtful of you to write and provide us with the summary of your testimony before the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), as well as your comments on the direction of some of the questions you were asked.

As you may be aware, approximately two years ago, when the HSCA came into existence, the Bureau organized a unit to respond to Committee requests for information from our files. That unit is under my direct supervision, and I can assure you that, in addition to making past and present Bureau employees available for interview or testimony, in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding, we have granted access to or delivery of the vast amount of FBI documents appropriately excised as required, which are directly or indirectly related to the assassination of President Kennedy. These documents have included those which pertain to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and other matters you raised.

While I can appreciate your motivation in requesting permission to review certain FBI files, so as to develop a written supplement to your testimony, I must decline permission for such a review at this time. The Committee has assured us that we will be afforded an opportunity to review its report prior to publication. At that time, hopefully, we will be able to clarify misinterpretations of past Bureau efforts, should any arise.

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You may also be interested to know that Bureau policy in these matters has been that former and current Bureau employees should appear before the Committee and testify only from their personal recollections and not from any recent review of files conducted for the purpose of refreshing memories.

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Ext. Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

1 - New Orleans
Personal Attention: SAC, New Orleans
DJC:mel (7)

SEE NOTE SAC, NEW ORLEANS, PAGE 3

SEE NOTE PAGE 4

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MAIL ROOM

FBI/DOJ

Mr. Warren C. de Brueys

I know you will understand our position in this matter, and, once again, please be assured that we shall continue every effort to ensure that Committee questions with regard to our past efforts will be answered as forthrightly as possible.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hal

Harold W. Bassett
Assistant Director
Records Management Division

NOTE SAC, NEW ORLEANS: Since former SAC de Brueys may communicate with the HSCA or may testify again, you are requested to utilize a secure means and caution Mr. de Brueys about information he set forth on Page 7, Lines 27 through 32, of the enclosure to his letter to the Director. He may refer to Commission Exhibit 833, Page 5, Volume XVII, of the "Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," for an example of how this type of information was and should be made public. He erred in stating a source "obtained a copy of a letter" because such a statement tends to signify a sensitive technique. He may have stated that the source provided us information based on statements Oswald made in a letter to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Mr. de Brueys may recall that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee openly furnished copies of Oswald's letters to Federal authorities. In short, while Mr. de Brueys is essentially correct in his statement, the Bureau would request that he express the information differently.

Mr. Warren C. de Brueys

NOTE: New Orleans airtel to the Bureau, dated 6/15/78, captioned "House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA)," furnished Mr. de Brueys' letter to SAC, New Orleans, and his four-page letter to Director Webster, with a 20-page enclosure. This response has been coordinated with Legal Liaison and Congressional Affairs Unit, Legal Counsel Division. Since the HSCA called the first former and current Special Agents approximately nine months ago, it has been Bureau policy that Agents (present or former) are to testify only from personal recollection and not from a review of files. Since former SAC de Brueys states he would write a supplement to his testimony based on a review of files, the review cannot be permitted at this time, as it would contravene past and current policy. All critics have raised questions and allegations about different aspects of the Bureau's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. Therefore, Mr. de Brueys is no more a party in interest at this time than any other Agent involved in one of those questioned aspects. Bureau teletype to New Orleans, dated 6/2/78, and New Orleans response dated 6/9/78, both captioned "House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA)," adequately resolved the matter raised by an HSCA staff member that Mr. de Brueys may have identified a Bureau informant during his testimony. Mr. de Brueys categorically denied doing so. SAC, New Orleans, is being requested to caution Mr. de Brueys about his error in mentioning a letter sent by Oswald to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New York. Dallas Field Office document 100-10461-37 shows transmission of this information from New York to Dallas. The information is classified as it involves a sensitive technique. The letter was and has continued to be made public by virtue of fact that it was publicly furnished by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee to Federal authorities.

APPROVED:

Director
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